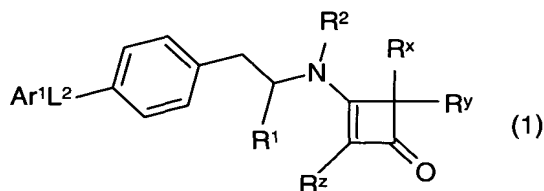


ABSTRACT

A process for the preparation of a class of phenylalanine enamide derivatives is described:

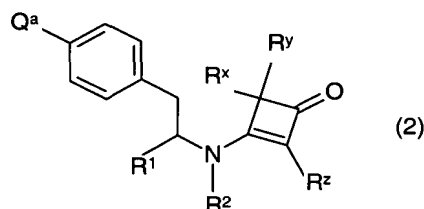


wherein:

Ar¹ is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group; L² is a linker group selected from -N(R⁴)- [where R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₆alkyl group], -CON(R⁴)-, or -S(O)₂N(R⁴)-;

- 10 R¹ is a carboxylic acid (-CO₂H) or a derivative or biostere thereof; R² is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆alkyl group; R^x, R^y and R^z which may be the same or different is each an atom or group -L¹(Alk¹)_n(R³)_v;
and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof;

- 15 which comprises reacting a compound of formula (2):



wherein:

Q^a is a group -N(R⁴)H;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof;

20 with a compound Ar¹W wherein W is a group selected from X¹ (wherein X¹ is a leaving atom or group), -COX² (wherein X² is a halogen atom or a -OH group) or -SO₂X³ (in which X³ is a halogen atom).